

H. R. 352.

[No Report.]

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

JULY 24, 1850.

Read twice, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow.

Mr. A. G. BROWN, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, reported the following bill:

A BILL

Making a grant of public land to the District of Columbia for school purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Repre-*
2 *sentatives of the United States of America in Congress*
3 *assembled,* That there be, and hereby is, granted to the
4 District of Columbia, for school purposes, three hundred
5 thousand acres of public lands, to be selected and located
6 according to the legal sub-divisions thereof, from any of
7 the public lands of the United States, at any time after the
8 same shall have been surveyed; the said selections and
9 locations to be made under the direction of the Secretary
10 of the Interior, and be subject to his approval or objection:
11 *Provided,* That mineral lands, and other lands, usually re-

12 served for the use of the United States, shall not be selected
13 or located under the provisions of this act.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the said
2 three hundred thousand acres of land hereby granted
3 shall be divided between the cities of Washington and
4 Georgetown, and the country within the limits of the Dis-
5 trict of Columbia, and outside of the corporate limits of
6 the cities aforesaid, according to the population of each,
7 to be judged of by the census next after the passage of
8 this act; and it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the
9 Interior to make such division, and set apart the land be-
10 longing to each, and in doing so, he shall have regard to
11 the quality of the land; and when the land shall be thus
12 divided, he shall cause a patent to issue for the same. The
13 lands for the cities of Washington and Georgetown shall
14 be patented to their respective corporations, and those for
15 the country to the District of Columbia. The citizens of
16 Washington and Georgetown shall each for themselves,
17 through the agency of their corporate authorities, have
18 power to sell and convey by deed, or otherwise, their sepa-
19 rate lands; and the country outside of said cities shall have
20 power to sell and convey its lands through the agency of
21 three commissioners, to be appointed for that purpose by
22 the President of the United States.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the Corpo-
2 rations of Washington and Georgetown, and the commis-
3 sioners aforesaid, shall have full power and authority, with
4 the assent of the President of the United States, to invest
5 the proceeds of the sales of said lands for the benefit of
6 public schools, and for no other purpose whatever ; and
7 the annuul interest of such investment, and no more, shall
8 be applied to the establishment and support of public
9 schools in the cities of Washington and Georgetown, and
10 and in the District of Columbia without the limits of said
11 cities.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That said lands
2 may be selected in quantities of not less than one quarter
3 section in a body, and shall be exempt from taxation for
4 the term of five years from the dates of the respective
5 locations.